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EXAMINER

OSMAN, RAMY M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2157

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/26/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/753,698

Applicant(s)

NINOKATA ET AL.

Examiner

Ramy M. Osman

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT, Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This communication is responsive to RCE amendment filed on December 27, 2006, where applicant amended claims 1,3-4,7-9,12,14,15,17-20,22,24-25. Claims 1-25 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 12/27/2006 have been fully considered and are found to be persuasive. A new grounds of rejection is presented below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant states: "A propagation signal". A signal is not considered suitable computer-readable media in and of itself. It is not tangible and does not produce a concrete and tangible result. It has no physical structure and therefore does not fall within any of the statutory categories. To overcome this rejection must remove the limitation or at least replace the "propagation signal" with "a transmission medium". (see MPEP 2106.01)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 2 recites the limitation "the two or more" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. **Claims 1-25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Picard et al (US Patent No. 6,233,318).**

8. In reference to claim 1, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively, to and from a user (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62).

9. In reference to claim 3, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62); wherein

each of said plurality of interface devices comprises a session information conversion device converting the received session information into the unified session information (column 20 lines 1-20).

10. In reference to claim 2, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said integral management device performs a process relating to session management including a start of the session using the two or more media, identity management for the session, and a disconnection of the session (column 6 lines 24-28 & 35-50).

11. In reference to claim 4, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62); and

a process device performing an information process while inheriting said unified session information, wherein said integral management device instructs said process device to perform a process corresponding to the unified session information (column 11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20).

12. In reference to claim 5, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said integral management device assigns a plurality of session identifiers to a user identifier of a user at a request to establish a plurality of session identifiers, and instructs said process device to perform a process corresponding to a selected session identifier, which is selected by the user from among the plurality of session identifiers, when unified session information including the selected session identifiers is received (column 10 lines 1-35).

13. In reference to claim 6, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said integral management device stores plural pieces of additional identification information corresponding to results of a plurality of individual processes belonging to the session using the two or more media, and instructs said process device to perform a process based on a result of an individual information process corresponding to selected additional identification information, which is selected by a user from among the plural pieces of additional identification information, when unified session information including the selected additional identification information is received (column 10 lines 1-35).

14. In reference to claim 7, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62); and

a register device registering user information, wherein among said plurality of interface devices, an interface device corresponding to a user-desired available medium confirms a connection of the available medium, and said register devices registers the available medium as the user information when the connection of the available medium is confirmed (column 11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20).

15. In reference to claim 8, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and

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generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62); and

a register device registering user information; and an authentication device performing user authentication, wherein: said plurality of media includes a voice medium; when a user requests use of the voice medium, an interface device corresponding to the voice medium among said plurality of interface devices obtains voiceprint information of the user; said register device registers the voiceprint information as the user information; and said authentication device performs user authentication of the user according to the entered voiceprint information when the user gains access (column 10 lines 1-67, column 19 lines 35-60 and column 20 lines 50-67).

16. In reference to claim 9, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and

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generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62); and

a process device performing an process relating to information search while inheriting the unified session information, wherein said integral management device instructs said process device to perform a searching process corresponding to the unified session information (column 11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20).

17. In reference to claim 10, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said process device comprises a control device assigning plural pieces of history identification information to results of a plurality of corresponding searching processes belonging to the session using the two or more media; and integral management device assigns a plurality of session identifiers to a user identifier of a user at a request to establish a plurality of session identifiers, and instructs said process device to perform a process corresponding to a selected session identifier, which is selected by the user from among the plurality of session identifiers, when unified session information including the selected session identifiers is received (Summary and column 13 lines 30-67).

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18. In reference to claim 11, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the process device comprises:

A storage device storing a result of a latest searching process among results of a plurality of searching processes belonging to the session using the two or more media; and a control device controlling for performing a re-searching process based on the result of the latest searching process when said integral management device instructs a searching process corresponding to the unified session information (column 10 lines 1-10 & 33-67 and column 13 lines 30-67).

19. In reference to claim 12, Picard teaches the apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network, comprising:

a mail communications device transmitting and receiving data of an electronic mail medium; a WEB communications device transmitting and receiving data of an WEB medium; a voice communications device transmitting and receiving data of a voice medium (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a mail control device receiving session information from said mail communications device, and generating unified session information corresponding to received session information; a WEB control device receiving session information from said WEB communications device, and generating unified session information corresponding to received session information; a voice control device receiving session information from said voice communications device and generating unified session information corresponding to received session information; (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15);
and

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an integral management device receiving the unified session information from said mail control device, said WEB control device, and said voice control device, and performing a process relating to session management of a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the electronic mail medium, the WEB medium, and the voice medium (column 4 lines 15-18) and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62), wherein

each of said mail control device, voice control device, and WEB control device includes a session information conversion device converting the received session information into the unified session information (column 11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20)).

20. In reference to claim 13, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said integral management device performs a process relating to session management including a start of the session using the two or more media, identity management for the session, and a disconnection of the session (column 8 lines 54-67 and column 10 lines 45-50).

21. In reference to claim 14, Picard teaches the apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network, comprising:

a mail communications device transmitting and receiving data of an electronic mail medium; a WEB communications device transmitting and receiving data of an WEB medium; a voice communications device transmitting and receiving data of a voice medium, to and from a user (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

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a mail control device receiving session information from said mail communications device, and generating unified session information corresponding to received session information; a WEB control device receiving session information from said WEB communications device, and generating unified session information corresponding to received session information; a voice control device receiving session information from said voice communications device and generating unified session information corresponding to received session information; (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from said mail control device, said WEB control device, and said voice control device, and performing a process relating to session management of a single session of a series of information processes where respective accessing processes in the single session are performed using respective different media among the electronic mail medium, the WEB medium, and the voice medium and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62t), and

a process device performing an process relating to information search while inheriting the unified session information, wherein said integral management device instructs said process device to perform a searching process corresponding to the unified session information (column 11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20).

22. In reference to claim 15, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

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a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25); and

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communication devices, generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information, and performing a process relating to session management of a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media and the respective requests are processed according to the unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62), wherein

each of said plurality of interface devices includes a session information conversion device converting the received session information into the unified session information (column 20 lines 1-20).

23. In reference to claim 16, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said integral management device performs a process relating to session management including a start of the session using the two or more media, identity management for the session, and a disconnection of the session (column 8 lines 54-67 and column 10 lines 45-50).

24. In reference to claim 17, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information, performing a process relating to session management of a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media and the respective requests are processed according to the unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62); wherein

said plurality of interface devices cooperatively perform the process relating to the session management in a distributed manner according to the unified session information (Summary).

25. In reference to claim 18, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information, and performing a process relating to session management of a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the

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plurality of media and the respective requests are processed according to the unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62); wherein

one of said plurality of interface devices representatively performs the process relating to the session management (Summary).

26. In reference to claims 19,20 and 22, Picard teaches a session management apparatus, a computer readable storage medium, and a method for managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

an issue device issuing session identification information using two or more media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 5-15, column 6 lines 1-25 and column 7 lines 5-20);

a management device performing consistent session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted through respective different media and the respective requests are processed according to the identification information (column 13 lines 20-62); and

an interface device converting the issued session identification information and notifying the converted session identification information to a user (column 10 lines 1-35).

27. In reference to claims 21 and 23, Picard teaches the storage medium and method according to claims 20 and 22, wherein said integral management device performs a process relating to session management including a start of the session using the two or more media, identity management for the session, and a disconnection of the session (column 8 lines 54-67 and column 10 lines 45-50).

28. In reference to claims 24 and 25, Picard teaches a session management apparatus and a program managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25); and

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communication devices, generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information, and performing a process relating to session management of a session using two or more media among the plurality of media according to the unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62), wherein

each of said plurality of interface devices includes a session information conversion device converting the received session information into the unified session information (column 11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20).

Conclusion

29. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Patent No. US006778642B1, Schmidt et al teaches a unified messaging system enabling access and retrieval of unified messages.

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30. The above claims are rejected based upon their broadest reasonable interpretation.


Applicant is advised that the above specified citations of the relied upon prior art are only representative of the teachings of the prior art, and that any other supportive sections within the entirety of the reference (including any figures, incorporation by references, claims, and priority documents) is implied as being applied to teach the scope of the claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramy M. Osman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4008. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RMO
March 16, 2007


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL CENTER